Center for Modern Greek Studies
San Francisco State University

Μαντατοφόρος*

ΕΔΡΑ ΝΙΚΟΥ ΚΑΖΑΝΤΖΑΚΗ

The Nikos Kazantzakis Chair

Modern Greek Studies Foundation

Fall, 1996 *MANDATOPHOROS: Bearer of news, messenger Vol. 12, No. 4

Second MGSF Art Show

More than 350 people attended the opening night reception of the second **Annual Exhibit and Sale of Paintings and Sculpture by Artists of Hellenic Ancestry**, which was held in September at the **Fort Mason Center** in San Francisco. The show was sponsored by the **Modern Greek Studies Foundation** to benefit the **Center for Modern Greek Studies/Nikos Kazantzakis Chair** at **San Francisco State University**.

Twenty-seven Sacramento and Bay Area artists presented their works, with styles ranging from traditional to impressionist and abstract, many with Greek themes and motives including those inspired by the Byzantine and Orthodox heritage and the Helladic landscape and the Archipelago.

The participating artists included the following: **Avra Alexiades, Petros Antoniou, Kay Athos, Gracia**

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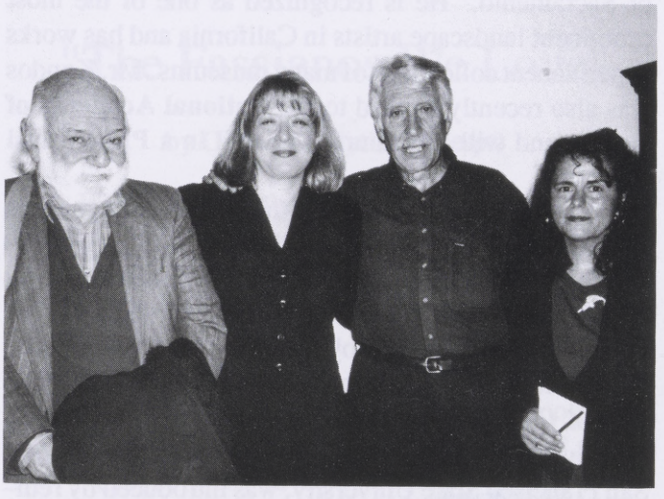
George Marcus, Sen. Nicholas Petris, Hon. Konstantinos Tritaris, Dr. Anastasios Simonidis (photo by Ann Condas)



Prof. Nanos Valaoritis, Prof. Martha Klironomos, Prof. Thanasis Maskaleris and Prof. Maria Kotzamanidou (photo by Ann Condas)

Elytis Memorial held at UC Berkeley

The **Center for Modern Greek Studies** and the **Modern Greek Program at UC Berkeley** sponsored a memorial for **Odysseas Elytis** at the UC Berkeley's International House on November 17, 1996. The event was very successful with a diverse audience of over 100 people in attendance. The program included comments on Elytis' poetry, recitations of his poems in Greek and in English and poems that had been set to music by contemporary Greek composers. The speakers and readers in this moving program were: **Consular Agent Costas Haralambopoulos, Professor Martha Klironomos, Emeritus Professors Thanasis Maskaleris** and **Nanos Valaoritis**, and **Professor Maria Kotzamanidou** of UC Berkeley's Modern Greek Program. The 1979 Nobel Prize winner died last March.

2nd MGSF Art Show

continued from page 1...

Bovis, Maria Koston Bulatao, Mattheos Christopoulos, Aristides Demetrios, Llisa Demetrios, Constantina J. Dillon, Demetre Fotos, Alexis Scandalis Genung, Anastasia Georgiou, Nonie Giusti, George Kanakis, Georgia Franjeskos Katsanos, Anastasia Keriotis, Gregory Kondos, Mika Maheras, Timothy Manolis, Cleo Mattis, Photis Pishiaras, Christine Roland, Andrew Saffas, Harriet Golfos Santroch, Sofia Sideris, George Stephanos and Lelia Rachelle Velianitis.

This year's honored artist was **Gregory Kondos** of Sacramento. He is recognized as one of the most prominent landscape artists in California and has works in permanent collections of many museums. Mr. Kondos was also recently elected to the **National Academy of Design** and will be featured this fall in a **PBS** special program.

Mr. Kondos and the other participating artists were introduced by **Mr. George Marcus**, Board Chairman of the Modern Greek Studies Foundation, and by **Senator Nicholas C. Petris**, President of the Board. Greetings were extended by **Consul General of Greece Konstantinos D. Tritaris**, and the **Hon. Consul General of Cyprus Anastasios K. Simonidis**. **Professor Martha Klironomos**, the new Director of the Center at San Francisco State University, was introduced by retiring Director **Thanasis Maskaleris**. Honorary Chair of the event was **Dorothea Vasil**. Her daughter **Caterina Vasil Peterson** was General Chair.

Members of the organizing committee were: **Patricia Aleck, Catherine Banks, Anastasia Condas, Effie Davlantes, Mary Davlantes, Dorothy Delianidis, Michael Genung, Linda Gibbons, Peter Haikalis, Susan Haikalis, Effie Kalafatis, Dena Karbo, Martha Klironomos, Barbara Kochiovelas, Titika Koplos, Virginia Lagiss, Cleo Lekas, Thanasis Maskaleris, Violet Nicholas, Annette Patsuris, Dora Prophet, Jane Stavropoulos Silva and Mary Thodos**. The Center for Modern Greek Studies and the Modern Greek Studies Foundation wish to thank everyone who participated, attended and made this event a success.

Gregory Kondos and Caterina Peterson (photo by Ann Condas)

The University of California Honors Senator Petris

On the occasion of his retirement, after 38 years of service in the California Legislature, the University of California is honoring **Senator Nicholas C. Petris** by establishing an endowed Chair and a scholarship bearing his name. The **Petris Chair in Classical Greek Studies**, and the **Petris Scholarship Fund** will be assigned to **UC Berkeley,** the Senator's alma mater.

This is a most fitting honor for an individual who has contributed significantly to California education and has fostered Hellenic culture throughout his life, not the least of which as president of the **Modern Greek Studies Foundation**. The **Center for Modern Greek Studies** and the Modern Greek Studies Foundation congratulate Senator Petris for this most deserved and distinguished recognition.

— Thanasis Maskaleris

Senator Nicholas C. Petris

Recent Library Acquisitions at SFSU

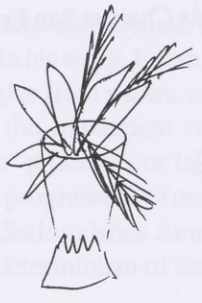
SFSU's library has recently acquired two handsome monographs, ***Fassianos*** and ***Fassianos: Drawings***, featuring the contemporary Greek artist **Alekos Fassianos'** paintings and sketches, both of which are bilingual Greek-English editions published by **Adam Editions** (Athens, 1990 and 1994, respectively).

Fassianos, whose work has enjoyed widespread popularity in Greece in recent decades, graduated from the Athens School of Arts and was a student of **Yiannis Moralis**. He later studied in France and was supported by a grant from the French government. Since 1960, he has exhibited his works in Europe, the U.S. and Japan. He is also known as an illustrator of books as well as a set and costume designer for ancient and contemporary Greek theatre productions.

Attracting critical and scholarly interest in both the Greek and foreign art worlds, Fassianos has been the subject of a number of television and radio documentaries. These two recent publications of his work feature several commentaries on his artistic style and predilections, including those by **Louis Aragon**, **Odysseas Elytis** and **Costas Gavras**, which try to contextualize the singularity of his work in the face of dominant European artistic trends.

Fassianos' subjects and motives are typically drawn from Greek mythology and the Greek landscape. Commenting on the predominance of nature in his work, Fassianos writes: "The nearer one gets to the essence of nature, the greater impression one can make upon people, since it is through painting that they discover themselves. It follows that only an exact knowledge of nature can provide a sense of truth. Of course, one never copies nature. One tries to imitate it, and, in that, something else, more truthful, occurs: the artist's effort to convey nature is converted into passion . . ." ("Painting and Reality", **Fassianos**, p. 219).

— Martha Klironomos



"The Fassianos We Love"

by Odysseas Elytis (Excerpt)

". . . . It is no accident that at a time when most artists had laid down their weapons in despair at the exhaustion, the deadlock of figurative painting, Fassianos managed in his peculiar, ever mutinous innocence, to infuse this kind of painting with a startling freshness, which was received, and finally accepted, not without astonishment, by the jaded citizens of the modern Metropolis as a beneficent spring shower falling upon parched ground . . . . Colour must have undoubtedly played a very important role in his first contact with the world. Each picture of his restores us to the condition of one who discovers colour for the first time. The distortions in his drawing make room for colour to mellow and expand in a wealth of imperceptible and heavenly fluctuations. If one insisted on locating his artistic forebears, one would have to go back to Theophilos and Karaghiozis. The only difference is that with Fassianos, ignorance has been reclaimed through consciousness, the exaggerations of popular art have been reclaimed through knowledge. All for the best. Consciousness and knowledge have endowed him with the additional gift of perceiving the whole before the parts, and to attain at times a classical composition envisaged, as it were, from a distance. . . . Between his native neighbourhood and the Left Bank of the Seine, Fassianos continues to cultivate his magic garden, to our greater benefit and delight, opening the way for those great heavy-jawed angels — that they may descend upon us, fingering their worry-beads, puffing at their cigars, riding their bicycles and motorcycles, that they may present us with the deep blue, the white, the golden flowers of our century" (**Fassianos**, pp. 109, 111).

Fulbright Recipients Honored

On October 30, 1996 San Francisco State University held a program on campus celebrating 50 years of "The Fulbright Experience". Remarks were made on the Fulbright experience by various academic and international leaders and past SFSU Fulbright recipients were honored.

Among those recognized were **Prof. Thanasis Maskaleris**, former director of the Center for Modern Greek Studies and Emeritus Professor of Comparative Literature, Classics and Creative Writing at SFSU, and **Dr. Peter Haikalis**, First Vice President of the Modern Greek Studies Foundation and Assistant Library Director of the SFSU Library.

Lecture on the Jews of Greece during the Holocaust

On Monday, November 25, 1996, **Dr. Yitzchak Kerem,** Junior Lecturer in Sephardic History at the **Hebrew University of Jerusalem**, presented a lecture on "The Jews of Greece in the Holocaust". Kerem is a specialist on the history of the Jews in the Greek world and the Greek Jews during the Holocaust. He has presented many scholarly papers and has published widely on this subject.

In his lecture Dr. Kerem spoke of the fate of 56,000 Jews, who lived in Nazi-occupied Greece, including Thessaloniki, Yannina and the Ionian Islands, many of whom were deported and taken to concentration camps in Eastern Europe. Drawing from a variety of historical documents and sources, including accounts given by survivors' family members, Dr. Kerem described the difficult fugitive-type conditions for many Jews fleeing Nazi apprehension and spoke of a number of instances whereby Greek officials and lay persons were able to help the Jews in hiding their identity. He also recounted the horrific injustices suffered by those deported. This event was sponsored by the **Jewish Studies Center, San Francisco State University**.

Princeton Professor Stathis Gourgouris Presents Seminar at SFSU

On Friday, November 22, 1996, **Professor Stathis Gourgouris, Department of Comparative Literature and the Hellenic Studies Program at Princeton University**, presented a seminar on his recently published book, **Dream Nation: Enlightenment, Colonization and the Institution of Modern Greece** (Stanford University Press).

Challenging standard analyses of nation formation and of philhellenism as these had emerged from Enlightenment thought, Gourgouris gave an overview of his study, which discusses the institution of Modern Greece as the 'dream nation', an example of the colonialist European civilization project. Gourgouris argues how ". . . one is not a national subject because some hegemonic structure called 'nation' or 'national culture' imposes its reality upon him, that is, turns an individual into a national subject by conferring upon him a passport or identity card. Instead, one 'becomes' a national subject insofar as one *believes* oneself to be a witness to this mysterious process or ritual called 'a national community,' insofar as one participates in (imagines, constructs, *dreams*) the fantasy of belonging to a national community" (***Dream Nation***, pg. 34).

Edward Said, Professor of Comparative Literature at Columbia University, has summarized the methodological orientations of the book. "Gourgouris' Dream Nation," he remarks, "establishes a new kind of cultural criticism: it weaves together the methods of history, literary and psychoanalytic theory, comparative literature, and political science. This is a bracing, touching, exciting work, catapulting its author to eminence."

Professor Gourgouris' presentation opened the floor to a number of issues discussed by the seminar participants: the evolution of Greece's history as a "nation" and its relationship to the formation of the modern state; the consequences of the philhellenist project for Greek Enlightenment intellectuals. The event was sponsored by the Center for Modern Greek Studies/ Nikos Kazantzakis Chair at San Francisco State University.

U.S. Premiere of Xenakis' *Epicycles* Performed in S.F.

On Monday, November 4, 1996, the **San Francisco Contemporary Music Players** concluded the evening's program with the U.S. premiere of **Epicycles** (1989), a piece by Greek composer **Iannis Xenakis**. Long known in Europe, Xenakis' music is rarely performed here in the U.S.

Born in 1922 to Greek parents in Romania, Xenakis received his education in Athens in civil engineering. During the Greek Resistance, he was imprisoned and suffered injuries, but managed to escape after being sentenced to death. In 1947, he moved to France where he now lives and took French citizenship in 1965.

An architect and mathematician, Xenakis worked with the well-known French architect **Le Corbusier**. His theories on formalized music have influenced an entire generation of composers, whereby which Xenakis has been recognized as a leading exponent of the European avant-garde. Among his accomplishments Xenakis has originated and advanced musical techniques such as that of the "stochastic." Deriving from theories in mathematical probability and random distribution, "stochastic" is a term which is applied to a system by which a sequence of symbols, such as musical notes, is produced in accordance with certain probabilities.[1] The term, originating from the Greek word **stochos**, i.e. goal, essentially means "random" in modern usage. "A stochastic process operates on a familiy of random variables which is indexed by another set of variables with compatible probability of distribution."[2] An example of a "stochastic" process involves a high degree of uncertainty in its initial stages, ever increasing certainty in its subsequent stages, and a high degree of determinacy in its final stages.[3]

Xenakis, whose musical compositions are based on abstract structures, usually based on mathematical or physical models, uses the term "stochastic" to describe his manipulation of sound masses composed of many elements in which the behavior of individual elements cannot be determined, while the outcome leans toward a more predictable result. In his work, **Formalized Music**, Xenakis draws on analogies from nature, such as rainfall and the fluctuations in the movement of a crowd, to illustrate free "stochastic" processes or laws which, in a general sense, follow the progression of order to disorder and vice versa.[4] What distinguishes Xenakis' music is that it deviates from the determinism of serialized music (e.g., Schoenberg's twelve-tone theory) and the indeterminacy characteristic of John Cage's work to create a music in which both elements come into play, but it also illustrates how the composer integrates his unique aesthetic orientations.[5] "Xenakis' preference for blocks or masses of sound, the individual notes being relevant only in their relation to one another, influences much of the style of his raw and intense works."[6]

— Martha Klironomos

1. Leonard B. Meyer, *Music, the Arts and Ideas* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1965), p. 14n.
2. *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, ed. Stanley Sadie (London: MacMillan Publishers, 1980), p. 148. For further references see Fred Attneave, "Stochastic Music Processes," *Journal of Aesthetics*, 17 (1959), pp. 503-510.
3. ibid.
4. Iannis Xenakis, *Formalized Music* (Bloomington: Indi ana University Press, 1971), p. 9.
5. San Francisco Contemporary Music Players Program Notes.
6. ibid.

Exhibit of Greek and Roman Art at UC Berkeley Art Museum

An important exhibit — **Masterpieces of Greek and Roman Art** — will be on view from December 18, 1996 to April 20, 1997 at the UC Berkeley Art Museum. **The Center for Modern Greek Studies** and the **Modern Greek Studies Foundation** are co-sponsors of the opening reception for this exhibit.

The museum is located at 2626 Bancroft Way (near College Ave.). For more information call the Museum at (510) 642-0808. Admission to the Museum is $6; seniors and students $4.

Center for Modern Greek Studies

The purpose of the Center for Modern Greek Studies is to promote the study of modern Greek language, literature, history, and culture in relation to Byzantine and earlier Hellenic history and cultural achievements. The Center coordinates courses offered in the Department of Classics, World and Comparative Literature, and History, as well as other courses related to the area of Modern Greek Studies, with the ultimate objective of developing an interdisciplinary major in Modern Greek Studies. Courses presently available include those in Greek language, Greek literature and in Greek history.

The Center also coordinates cultural programs and activities designed to promote understanding of modern and contemporary Greece. In connection with the Center, an endowed chair in Modern Greek Studies has been established, The Nikos Kazantzakis Chair, to provide support for curricular development and cultural programming.

For information about the Center for Modern Greek Studies, please contact Martha Klironomos, Director, 415-338-1892.

Modern Greek Studies Courses — Spring 1997

GRE 251 **Modern Greek II**
Instructor: Martha Klironomos
Place: HUM 381
Time: 2:10-3:25 PM — Mon./Wed.

Continuation of Modern Greek I. Accelerated emphasis on conversation, reading and writing in contemporary Greek. This is a GE course.*

GRE 470 **Advanced Modern Greek IV**
Instructor: Effie Kalafatis
Place: HUM 108
Time: 3:35-6:20 PM — Tuesday

Continuation of third semester Modern Greek. Accelerated emphasis on grammar and composition writing, plus translation of representative texts.*

WCL 445.1 **Modern Greek Literature**
Instructor: Martha Klironomos
Place: HUM 582
Time: 6:00-8:45 PM — Thursday

This is an introductory course to the literature of Modern Greece's most well-known writers including Solomos, Palamas, Cavafis, Kazantzakis, Seferis, Elytis and others. These writers will be discussed in the context of Greek political and cultural nationalism. Lectures and discussion will be conducted in English. Texts available both in the original and in translation.

*students will be required to take a placement test for the language courses.

Registration Information

Extended Education
Any adult may enroll in University courses without being formally admitted to the University. For more information call SFSU Extended Education at (415) 338-1373.

Eldercollege
This program is for those over 60. Although it is not possible to earn a degree through Eldercollege you may audit regular classes on a space available basis. For more information call Extended Education at (415) 338-1373.

Over-Sixty Program
Persons 60 years of age or older can earn a Baccalaureate or Master's degree at the University without payment of admission or registration fees. You only pay a $3.00 fee for each term you attend. For information call the Admissions office at 415-338-2017.

For persons interested in pursuing Modern Greek Studies as a minor, please call the Center for Modern Greek Studies for further information. Tel: 415-338-1892, FAX: 415-338-0932, e-mail: modgreek@sfsu.edu.

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Frank P. Agnost Receives OXI Day Award

At a dinner on October 26, 1996, commemorating the **56th Anniversary of OXI Day**, October 28, 1940, the United Hellenic Societies of Northern California honored **Hellenic Journal** publisher **Frank P. Agnost** "with deep appreciation for his great contribution to the vitality and continuity of the Greek American community." The **Center for Modern Greek Studies** and the **Modern Greek Studies Foundation** congratulate Frank Agnost for receiving this well-deserved award.

— Thanasis Maskaleris

Our Wish List

If you would like to help the Center's Greek Collections by donating any of the following, please call us at (415) 338-1892.

- Greek films on video
- old Greek-Folk music
- books in Greek or in English about Modern Greece
- a high-quality video-camera to record our cultural events — we also would like to start a oral history collection of Greek Americans in the Bay Area.

Special issue on Greek Americans

Cobblestone: The History Magazine for Young People has devoted its entire December issue, some 50 pages, to Greek Americans. There are short articles on early immigrant history, folk dance, family traditions, etc. — all well illustrated and interestingly written for young people from the 4th through the 8th grades. For inquiries, please contact the publisher (1-800-821-0115). Multiple copies are also available for classroom use.

Dated Material

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Calendar of events, lectures and seminars

Sunday, February 9, 1997
3-5:00 PM Humanities Building Room 133, SFSU: Cultural Anthropologist, Roland Moore, Ph.D., of the Prevention Research Center, Berkeley will present a lecture "Contemporary Dowry Customs in Rural Greece: Symbolism and Pragmatism."

March, 1997 (date to be announced)
Professor Anne Carson, Classical scholar and Canadian poet, McGill University, will present a lecture on Simonides and Paul Celan entitled "Economy: Its Frangrance."

For more information call the Center at (415) 338-1892.

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